
Introduced by Senator Padilla

January 13, 2009

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 8—Relative to information and communication technologies digital literacy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 8, as introduced, Padilla. Information and communication technologies digital literacy.

This measure would request that the Governor create the California Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Digital Literacy Leadership Council to provide leadership regarding ICT digital literacy, defined as using digital technology, communications tools, or networks, or any combination thereof, to access, manage, integrate, evaluate, create, and communicate information in order to function in a knowledge-based economy and society.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Information and communication technologies (ICT)
2 digital literacy is a defining component of California's
3 competitiveness in a knowledge-based economy, and is becoming
4 more important to attracting capital investment that will generate
5 higher quality jobs; and
6 WHEREAS, ICT digital literacy skills are critical to the ability
7 of California to compete successfully in a global information and
8 knowledge economy; and
9 WHEREAS, ICT digital literacy is defined as using digital
10 technology, communications tools, networks, or any combination
11 thereof, to access, manage, integrate, evaluate, create, and

1 communicate information in order to function in a
2 knowledge-based economy and society; and

3 WHEREAS, There is widespread recognition documented in
4 numerous national and international reports by entities and
5 conferences, such as the World Summit on the Information Society
6 (WSIS), that ICT digital literacy is increasingly critical for
7 increasing productivity, improving quality of life, and enhancing
8 global competitiveness; and

9 WHEREAS, Even though the first annual Californians and
10 Information Technology survey by the Public Policy Institute of
11 California, in partnership with the California Emerging Technology
12 Fund and ZeroDivide, found that “[n]early seven in 10 Californians
13 and strong majorities across demographic groups say it is very
14 important for Californians to have Internet access,” there is a
15 persistent digital divide in California as evidenced by the following
16 survey findings:

17 (a) Less than one-half of Latinos (48 percent) have home
18 computers, while 86 percent of Whites, 84 percent of Asians, and
19 79 percent of Blacks have them;

20 (b) Only 40 percent of Latinos have Internet access and 34
21 percent have broadband connections at home, while the majorities
22 of other racial and ethnic groups have both Internet access and
23 broadband connections at home;

24 (c) Only 32 percent of Californians are very confident about
25 their abilities to keep viruses, spyware, and adware off their home
26 computers;

27 (d) Fifty-six percent of parents indicate that they visit the
28 Internet Web sites of their children’s schools; however, only 30
29 percent of those with household incomes under \$40,000 visit the
30 schools’ Internet Web sites, while 84 percent of those with incomes
31 of \$80,000 or more visit them;

32 (e) A majority of Californians express concern that residents in
33 lower income areas and rural areas have less access to broadband
34 Internet technology than others (62 percent and 51 percent,
35 respectively);

36 (f) Disparity exists among ethnic and racial groups, income
37 levels, and regions when comparing rates of computer ownership,
38 Internet access, and broadband connections at home; for example:

39 (1) Since 2000, computer use among Whites has grown from
40 79 percent to 85 percent and among Blacks has increased from 76

1 percent to 83 percent, as has Internet use (from 70 percent to 81
2 percent for Whites and from 60 percent to 82 percent for Blacks);

3 (2) Among Latinos, computer use has declined since 2000 from
4 64 percent to 58 percent and Internet use is almost unchanged (47
5 percent compared to 48 percent). Asians also have seen declines
6 during the same period in both their use of computers (from 91
7 percent to 81 percent) and of the Internet (from 84 percent to 80
8 percent); and

9 WHEREAS, To ensure continued global competitiveness in
10 today's knowledge-based economy, it is increasingly important
11 for workers to be able to cope with changes in the nature of work,
12 shifts in the labor demand, and changes in required ICT skills for
13 the jobs being created; and

14 WHEREAS, At the individual level, the ability to read, write,
15 perform proficiently in mathematics, solve problems, work in a
16 team, think critically, and use ICT is essential to education and
17 workforce preparation, employment success, civic participation,
18 health care, and accessing entertainment; and

19 WHEREAS, California supports ICT for applications in
20 government, education, the workforce, health care, business, and
21 other areas; and

22 WHEREAS, It is recognized that all residents must have the
23 opportunity for full participation in the educational, civic, cultural,
24 and economic sectors of California society, and must have access,
25 and appropriate skills for, fully utilizing government, education,
26 workforce, health care, business, and other services; and

27 WHEREAS, A California ICT digital literacy policy should
28 support a framework and continuum of digital literacy skills,
29 benchmarking, and metrics consistent with globally accepted
30 standards, and should ensure accountability for assessing progress
31 and success; and

32 WHEREAS, Having an ICT digital literacy policy is consistent
33 with the Governor's goals of strengthening the economy, expanding
34 the skilled workforce, and increasing competitiveness in sciences,
35 technology, engineering, and mathematics industries and careers;
36 now, therefore, be it

37 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
38 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature finds and declares that it
39 is the goal of the state to accomplish all of the following:

(a) Ensure that California residents are digitally literate, and in so doing, recognize the importance of the following:

(1) Access to ICT by Californians regardless of geographic location, income, or any particular advantage.

(2) The provision of ubiquitous broadband service in a competitive marketplace at affordable cost.

(3) Opportunities for Californians to acquire ICT digital literacy skills in order to benefit academically, economically, and socially.

(4) A California ICT digital literacy policy that furthers the goal of all residents of California achieving digital literacy.

(b) Create a seamless continuum of digital literacy competencies with benchmarks, metrics, assessments, and certifications endorsed by the state to identify the ICT digital literacy proficiencies of students, workers, and California residents overall.

(c) Establish a goal of pursuing and achieving ICT digital literacy for students, workers, and California residents overall; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature further finds and declares that it is important to maintain and advance California as a global leader in ICT digital literacy by doing all of the following:

(a) Incorporate ICT digital literacy into workforce training programs and curricula.

(b) Support and promote ICT digital literacy by encouraging all public agencies to optimize e-government and the availability of public services online.

(c) Require employers and employer organizations to identify requisite ICT digital literacy skills for 21st century jobs and to articulate appropriate training and assessment standards to local, regional, and state agencies responsible for workforce training.

(d) Encourage public and private sectors to join forces and form public-private partnerships to promote ICT digital literacy; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature requests that the Governor create the California Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Digital Literacy Leadership Council to provide leadership regarding ICT digital literacy; and be it further

Resolved, That the council should be composed of the Secretary for Education, the Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development, the Secretary of Business, Transportation and Housing, and the

1 State Chief Information Officer, who should be the chairperson
2 of the council; and be it further
3 *Resolved*, That the council should invite the Superintendent of
4 Public Instruction and one representative each from the California
5 State Senate and the California State Assembly to participate as
6 members of the council; and be it further
7 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
8 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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